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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2-4 have been added. The specification and abstract have also been amended to overcome the objections in the Office Action. A drawing amendment is filed along with this amendment to overcome the objections in the office action.

Form PTO-1449 is filed along with this amendment to comply with the requirement in the Office Action to supply any information which applicant considers to improve, specifically as exemplified by Figs. 2-3, that are deemed material to the proper examination of the application. The information being filed by applicant is a brochure describing solvent distillers with inner flexible containers (please note arrows on page 3) of the type which is improved by the present invention. Applicant believes this information is satisfactory to comply with the requirement in the office action, however, if the information is not satisfactory, applicant will gladly supply other information to comply with the requirement. Claims 2-4 have been written to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph in the Office Action.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over any one of Castona (US 1,112,980), Hoover (4,323,429), Todd (US 515,889) or Pride (US 840,955). Specifically, the rejection stated that "to place a pipe beside the inner container to allow vapor to pass there through in the apparatus admitted to be known by the applicant

would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as taught by any one of the secondary references mentioned above. Doing so would allow passage of vapor or steam in said pipe." To establish obviousness of a claimed invention, the prior art reference, or references when combined, must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. In addition, there must be some suggestion or motivation to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings (MPEP §706.02(j)).

It is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is patentable over any one of Castona, Hoover, Todd or Pride. None of the prior art disclose a pipe means located between the flexible inner container and the outer container and extending from the lower space to the upper space for transporting solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space to the outlet to prevent the solvent steam generated in the lower space from lifting the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber, the solvent steam being generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space, the pipe means having an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container.

The patent to Pride does not disclose a pipe means located between a flexible inner container and an outer container and extending from a lower space (earlier set forth in the claim as defined by the flexible inner container and the outer container within the boiling chamber) to the upper space (earlier set forth in the claim as defined by the cover, the flexible inner container and the outer container located above the impure solvent in the flexible inner container), for

transporting solvent steam generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space. The pipe 22 of Pride within the container 1, 21, 25 is a steam admission pipe. The steam admission pipe is not located between a flexible inner container and an outer container and does not extend from a lower space to the upper space and does not transport solvent steam generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space.

The patent to Todd does not disclose a pipe means for a solvent distiller, the solvent distiller being for separating pure solvent from impure solvent, which the preamble of claim 2 sets forth. The pipe X is located on the condenser, not the distiller. However, assuming, arguendo, that the pipe X is located in a distiller, the pipe X is not for transporting solvent steam generated by heating solvent trapped in the lower space to the upper space. The pipe X in Todd transports water from the outlet W to against the bottom of the condenser for filling the tank Y and overflowing at pipe 8.

Claim 2 also recites that the pipe means has an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container. There is no motivation or suggestion to combine the structure of the present invention with the structure of the condenser of Todd and pipe X. The structure of pipe X is such that its outlet lies against the bottom of the condenser. If the pipe of the present invention lied against the bottom of the condenser, the pipe could not transport solvent vapor generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the bottom space.

The patent to Castona does not disclose a pipe means located between the flexible inner container and the outer container and extending from the lower space to the upper space for transporting solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space to the outlet to prevent the solvent steam generated in the lower space from lifting the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber, the solvent steam being generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space, the pipe means having an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container. The pipe 36 of Castona is a steam admission pipe, not a solvent steam transporting pipe. The container 1 of Castona includes a perforated basket. The perforated basket is suspended above a heater. The perforate basket contains wood from which turpentine is extracted via the steam. There is no motivation to combine the distiller structure the preamble in claim 2 with the pipe of Castona. The distiller structure of Castona shows that the steam admission pipe 36 extends through the center of the container to evenly distribute the steam to extract turpentine from the wood. In addition, the inner perforated basket cannot hold solvent liquid. Thus, the pipe 36 is not located between the flexible inner container and the outer container and the pipe 36 does not extend from the lower space to the upper space for transporting solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space to the outlet, the solvent steam being generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space, the pipe means having an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container.

The patent to Hoover does not disclose a pipe means located between the flexible inner container and the outer container and extending from the lower space to the upper space for transporting solvent steam from the lower space to the upper space to the outlet to prevent the solvent steam generated in the lower space from lifting the flexible inner container in the boiling chamber, the solvent steam being generated by heating impure solvent trapped in the lower space, the pipe means having an inlet spaced apart from a bottom of the outer container. The pipe 98 of Hoover is a vapor passageway having pipe sections 102 and 103 for transporting vapor from the distiller to the condenser. The distiller 11 of Hoover includes a tank 15 having two chambers 16 and 17. Chamber 16 is for containing impure solvent. Chamber 17 contains liquid heat for heating the impure solvent in chamber 16. The pipe 102 is for transporting the solvent steam generated in the chamber 16 to the condenser 12. Hoover does not disclose that there is impure solvent trapped in the chamber 17 and that the pipe has an inlet spaced apart from the bottom of the outer container for transporting solvent steam generated by impure solvent trapped in the lower space between the outer container and the flexible inner container.

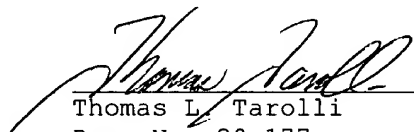
Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2 and are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 2 and for the specific limitations recited therein. Thus, claims 2-4 should be allowed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the abstract and specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

The present invention relates to a device for a distiller adapted to distil solvents for recovery of pure solvent from impure solvent, ~~the~~ the solvent (2) being used for washing away residues of paint from spray guns. The distiller (1) ~~comprises~~ includes an outer container (5) with a boiling chamber (8) which at the top has an opening (9) which can be tightly closed by ~~means of~~ a cover (10) and a flexible inner container (13) is provided in the boiling chamber (8), ~~the~~ the flexible inner container (13) containing impure solvent to be distilled. A pipe means (20) is placed beside the flexible inner container (13) in order to allow solvent steam (7a), which is generated by boiling solvent in a lower space (19) beneath the flexible inner container (13), to pass from the lower space (19) into an upper space (16) having an outlet (17) and located above the flexible inner container (13) for preventing ~~the~~ the solvent steam (7a) from lifting the flexible inner container (13) in the boiling chamber (8).

~~(Fig. 4)~~

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph on page 3 lines 1-2 has been amended as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be further described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 31 and ending on page 5 line 8 has been amended:

Experience shows that a certain amount of solvent 2a 2 accumulates in a lower space 19 in the boiling chamber 8 and this solvent 2a 2 is also brought to boil and thereby emit solvent steam 71. Since the flexible inner container 13 under unfortunate circumstances might obstruct the path for the solvent steam 7a and prevent to from flowing up into the upper space 16 and out though the outlet 17, the solvent steam 7a flowing upwards might life the flexible inner container 13, which is illustrated with arrows D in fig. 3.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claims 2-6 have been added.